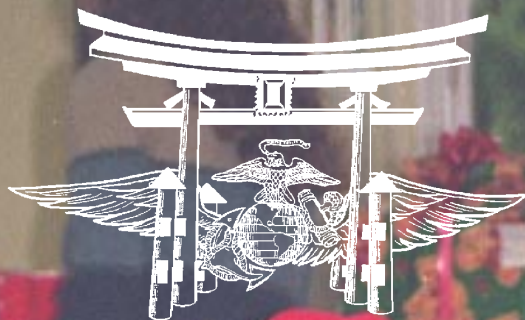


Torii



Teller

Marine Corps Air Station
Iwakuni, Japan

Vol. 44 No. 50
Dec. 24, 1999

Cover:
Orphanage visit pgs 6,7
Inside:
Marines visit seniors pg 4

Stop complaining, start enjoying

by Maj. Tim Keefe
Public Affairs Officer

Have you heard the story about the Marine and his family who were missing in Iwakuni for three days? SAR had to be called in and finally located the family – they had accidentally gone into the wrong entrance of Club Iwakuni and were trying to find the Eagle's Nest when they got lost. A little shaken up, they were pretty much in good health when found, though. Fortunately, they had managed to get served at the Officer's Club, SNCO Club and Enlisted Club before they were discovered.

Okay, so that didn't happen, and it wouldn't happen, and it couldn't happen, but it seems to me that a lot of people on the air station are acting like that's a real possibility. That's why the MCCS staff has been bending over backward to make sure everyone knows their way around our great new facility. That's why this week's MCCS insert is a

diagram of Club Iwakuni, but I don't think the real problem is residents finding their way around the club. The problem is other patrons' annoyance at residents who are trying to find their way around the club.

The club has only been open a couple months, but I think I've heard more silly griping about it than any other issue I've been involved with the last two and a half years. Any of these look familiar? "Those officers/staff NCOs/Marines (circle the one that applies) just walked in OUR entrance," "I just watched that officer/staff NCO/Marine watch me drink my beer," or "When those officers/staff NCOs/Marines walk in that door, they can see me eating."

I think everyone expected some difficulty transitioning from three separate club buildings to having them all

housed under one roof, but who would have forecasted such petty, back-biting nastiness surrounding one of the nicest facilities in the Marine Corps? We ought to spend more time being thankful for it than the time that's been wasted complaining about it.

Sure, there have been legitimate hiccups at the club, but I think the staff there has done a great job in working out the kinks. You have to sympathize with them on that first week. I mean, here we have one major kitchen, a new ordering/register system, a staff trying to get used to its new surroundings and then everyone on base descending on the club like flies day after day after day. I even

heard people complain about waiting for a table at the Eagle's Nest when they could clearly see about 5000 people trying to get inside. Have a little common sense and be patient.

We are lucky that the only thing we're really worrying about here is the club.

There are a lot more important things that we don't have to deal with. Be

thankful that we've got such a nice facility – so new and so clean. Sure it isn't broken in like the old clubs; it's not old enough to develop their personality and character yet. It's also not old enough to develop their leaks, squeaks and smells, either.

And as far as those complaints go, have a little tolerance for others. If you see someone walking around your part of Club Iwakuni looking lost, chances are good that they are lost. Treat them with the courtesy and respect you would want to be afforded if you were in the same situation. Help them get to where they want to go.

And if you are one of the lost ones, don't panic – there's plenty of food to tide you over until someone finds you.

We ought to spend more time being thankful for it than the time that's been wasted complaining about it ...



Our Cover
Children from the Garden of Light Orphanage line up to see Santa Claus during their visit to the air station. See the story on Pages 6 and 7. (photo by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn)

Torii  Teller

Commanding Officer Col. Richard C. Dunn
Public Affairs Officer Maj. Tim Keefe
Public Affairs Chief SSgt. Lawrence Torres
Press Chief Cpl. Michael Wiener
Information/Editorial Specialist Sachiko Misaka
Combat Correspondent Cpl. Ryan Bradburn
Combat Correspondent LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson

"This weekly magazine is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed overseas and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof."

PAO, PSC 561, Box 1861, FPO AP 96310-0029
253-5551 or 253-5554 (fax)

News Briefs

Commissary Closure

The hours of operation for the Commissary will be changed to the following schedule for the holiday season:

Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dec. 25, closed; Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed.
For more information, call 253-4512.

Dental Clinic

The Dental Clinic will be open for regular business hours on Monday. If patrons wish to cancel their Monday appointment in order to take full advantage of the 96-hour liberty plan, call the front desk at 253-3331 or 253-3174 to reschedule.

Banking Hours

Community Bank will be closed Friday in observance of the Christmas Holiday and will be open from 9-5 on Thursday and New Year's Eve.

Navy Federal Credit Union will also be closed Friday on New Year's Eve as well. Otherwise, normal banking hours will apply for both institutions.

Patriot Express

Air Force policy restricts use of all tobacco products, to include smokeless tobacco, on contract aircraft missions commonly known as "Patriot Express."

Passengers are asked to abide by this while aboard commercial chartered aircraft.

Helmets

Station residents are reminded that it is against station policy to ride bicycles without wearing a helmet.

Computer program helps locate victims

by **LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson**
Torii Teller Staff

When Gilligan and the Skipper didn't return from their three-hour tour, it was assumed they were lost, and the search was called off. If their rescuers had owned the new C2PC computer program that Iwakuni Search and Rescue recently received, the Skipper, his little buddy and the rest of the castaways could have been found and been home in time for a luau.

Iwakuni SAR is the only SAR unit in the Marine Corps to have received the program. Other Marine Corps Search and Rescue units around the world do not have the program

because they can rely on other rescue service support like the Coast Guard that has the program.

The program was developed by the U.S. Coast Guard 18 months ago to assist search and rescue vehicles in finding victims.

"The coast guard has done studies where they have put hundreds of objects in the water and measured over time and distance where they deviate based on how a certain wind will affect them," said Maj. Greg Glasser, officer in charge of Search and Rescue here.

Based on almanac information and latitude and longitude, the

see **SAR** Page 8

Center clearing-house for Y2K information

by **Paul Stone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It's mostly just a large open, quiet room in a downtown Washington office building right now. Almost all the workstations remain vacant. The computer screens are dark, and the large television screens suspended from the ceiling glow to a nonexistent audience.

But by the end of December the room will be anything but vacant and quiet. Computers will be glaring brightly day and night.

Chatter from the televisions likely will be drowned out by chatter from the approximately 100 people who will fill the room. And the carpeting will be well tested by the increasing flurry of activity as the federal government's Information Coordination Center prepares for the Y2K main event — Jan. 1, 2000.

In the federal government's multiyear battle against the millennium bug, the coordination center is the latest — and perhaps the last —

White House initiative to contend with Y2K problems the new year may bring. The center will be a clearing-house for Y2K information reported by federal agencies during the year-end rollover, according to Navy Cmdr. Randy Lovdahl, DoD's primary representative at the center.

Key participating federal agencies include the departments of State, Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Justice and Treasury; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Communications Commission.

Center staff will monitor public infrastructures such as telecommunications, transportation, energy, health and emergency services, defense systems, water supplies, and systems that affect international trade and communications. Lovdahl emphasized that the center is not intended to fix any problems that may occur, only to monitor and

see **Y2K** Page 8

Marines visit seniors

by **LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson**

Torii Teller Staff

With the season of giving upon us, more than 25 residents of MCAS Iwakuni carried on a long-standing tradition and visited 55 Japanese senior citizens at the Seifuen Senior Home in Iwakuni Sunday.

The seniors shuffled by, quickly bowing to all that had come to share some time with them. The volunteers brought pizza, an ice cream cake and presents. Santa even made an appearance to sing and pass out gifts.

"The biggest thing with the elderly is just being there. They don't get a lot of visitors so having folks just spend

a few hours with them really makes a big difference," said Navy Lt. Charles Alkula, assistant MAG-12 chaplain.

"People come every three months to visit and bring pizza and cakes," said Denny Usuki, volunteer translator. "There's a heart to heart relationship."

"We're there because we're trying to give something back in appreciation for the welcome we've had in this country," said Alkula. "Perhaps the Japanese organizations go out of obligation. There's no cultural expectation for us being there."

When volunteers visit, they sing and play instruments

see **SENIOR** Page 9

TRICARE surveys customers

by **Douglas J. Gillert**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The fourth annual survey of TRICARE beneficiaries shows that patients generally like the health care they get, but they're often frustrated just getting in to see a doctor.

More than 200,000 adult eligible for Military Health System benefits were surveyed, with 37 percent responding. The response rate was down from 50 percent the previous two years, however, a telephone survey of those who didn't complete surveys failed to establish that there were significant differences in their satisfaction with TRICARE compared to those who completed surveys.

"Our beneficiaries largely are satisfied with the care when they can get to it," said Army Lt. Col. Thomas Williams, director of program evaluation for the TRICARE Management Activity. "And importantly, we're meeting or exceeding most national goals in preventive care for our beneficiaries."

Beneficiaries are more critical of TRICARE, however, when it comes to making appointments, Williams said. "We need to maintain our high performance in the care we deliver and the providers we attract and

retain, but we also need to investigate how we can most efficiently get people into this system with a minimum amount of hassle."

"The TRICARE Management Activity wants comprehensive, high quality data that allows comparisons across systems of care," Williams said. Data for the current survey was drawn from patients' health care experiences during 1998. Questions in the 1998 survey were based on the Consumer Assessment of Health Plans, a nationally recognized standard for measuring health care systems. "Changing the survey to reflect national standards of consumer assessment puts us in a much better position to determine what's good or bad about TRICARE," he said.

"If you look at the benchmark data, when our beneficiaries comment about their personal physician and the care they get, we are comparable to national figures. Those figures reflect, I think, a large degree of satisfaction.

"Those common measures of satisfaction start to drop the further removed that measure is from the interpersonal provider-patient relationship. So while the criticism we receive is characteristic of what is being discovered nationally, we're

still not at the level we'd like to be," said Williams.

Access goals of TRICARE also must be within reach, Williams said.

"I think a realistic goal would be somewhat short of 100 percent satisfaction with the appointment systems," he said. "Our goals should be established with some recognition of what's going on outside of the Military Health System and what other systems have experienced."

Information from the annual survey is provided to medical commanders to help them shape local health care delivery. In addition, the information is used by the Center for Naval Analysis to compile an annual report to Congress, coupled with cost data derived from a variety of sources by the Institute for Defense Analyses.

The congressional report uses more sophisticated analytic tools to track beneficiary attitudes but still generally supports the annual survey findings, Williams said. The two contractors first reported on TRICARE in the Pacific Northwest, TRICARE's oldest active region. For the 1999 report to Congress, they revisited that region plus six others that have been active for at least one year. By 2001, all regions will be

see **TRICARE** Page 9



photo by LCpl. Travis A. Gannon

A Weapons Company Marine crawls through one window while another watches the windows above him. The Marines threw a simulated fragmentation grenade into the room to clear it of enemy personnel before entering.

MOUT challenges 1/7

by LCpl. Travis A. Gannon
MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Dec. 9) — “In MOUT, there’s a million ways to die,” said SSgt. Kevin Mendel, 81mm mortar’s platoon sergeant. Weapons Company and “C” Company

wore out the Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility the first week of December; the rest of the battalion moved in the following week.

It’s been six months since 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, last maneuvered through a MOUT facility. Many of the new guys needed to get a taste of it, Mendel said.

Although MOUT is not the mis-

sion of a weapons company, they underwent the training nonetheless. “Today’s war is going to be fought in urban terrain. We need this to survive,” PFC Jordan Kramp said.

Mendel and his platoon seized a building in the corner of the facility and cleared the rooms until they got it right.

Following each attack, they gathered for a debrief to learn their lessons.

“Remember,” Mendel barked. “if something happens that splits the team, half goes upstairs and half goes down.

You’ve got men up there. Don’t shoot your own men — someone shot Miller when he went up the stairs on that grenade.

“If you’re going up a stairway and someone drops a grenade, why not rush up those stairs and flood that area?” he asked. “That grenade isn’t going to bounce back up. Besides, your momentum is already going up.” After each debrief, Marines are given a new scenario from a different position. Security is set in a position where they can monitor the face and sides of the building before clearing it.

The first team rushes to the building and a few heads poke out of the windows above.

see **MOUT** Page 10

Marines, Sailors



Santa Claus hands out candy from the cockpit of a VMFA-232 F/A-18 Hornet during the Garden of Light Orphanage's Christmas party.

FAR RIGHT: Sergeant Tamara Hunter, organics floor supervisor, entertains a guest with a game of tic-tac-toe during CSSD-36's Christmas party for local orphanage children. RIGHT: Lance Corporal Phil Walker, training non-commissioned officer, points out "his" child's name on a gift before the paper and label are torn away from the present inside during CSSD-36's Christmas party.



s spend time with local children

by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn
Torii Teller Staff



A child from the Garden of Light Orphanage gazes at story-teller during a visit sponsored by MAG-12.

photos by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn
sponsored by



For the past few weeks, Marines and Sailors from several units aboard the air station have been making the season a little bit brighter for local youth. Many spent a little extra time and money to provide a holiday celebration for orphan-ages in the local area.

"It was fascinating to watch these rough, tough Marines being hugged by a 3-year-old girl," said Navy Lt. Charles Alkula, MAG-12 assistant chaplain, who helped his unit sponsor more than 60 children from the Garden of Light Orphanage of Hiroshima. The station has a long-standing relationship with the orphanage, so some children await this time of year, he said. "For some of them, it's an annual event — something they really look forward to."

For most units, the sponsorship involved a man in a red suit, gifts, food and often a tour of the station. Children who visited got the chance to see Santa arrive in a CH-46D helicopter and sit in an F/A-18 Hornet, and received gifts from his hand afterwards. Gifts were generally purchased by service members with a specific child in mind, as the orphanages provided names, ages and genders for the gift-givers.

It wasn't a one-way transaction, though, according to many who gave their time and money.

"For a lot of Marines, the children were the same age as their own brothers and sisters; for some, their own children," said Alkula.

"Marines said it was a wonderful opportunity," said Navy Lt. Daniel Kim, MWSS-171 squadron chaplain, who helped his unit sponsor more than 60 children.

"Single Marines loved it because they had someone to spend the holidays with," said 1st Lt. Michael Craighead, MALS-12 logistics officer, who helped his unit bring 26 children aboard the station.

For most who helped out, the time will be well-remembered.

"I kind of melted inside ... just from the feeling of giving," said LCpl. Lorenzo McNeal, who works with MAG-12 ground supply garrison property.

report to the nation the status of systems.

"Departments and agencies are all expected to solve their Y2K problems at the lowest possible level, just as they normally would," he said. "What we're doing is monitoring the big picture and getting information to decision makers should any action be necessary."

Beginning Dec. 28, the ICC will operate on a routine daily schedule until Dec. 30, when it will begin 24-hour operations lasting into the first several days of January. But Lovdahl said operations could be curtailed shortly after Jan. 1 if Y2K ends up being a "nonevent." The ICC's Joint Public Information Center is expected to provide regular updates to the media depending on the flow of information and problems that may occur.

Lovdahl explained he has a dual role on the ICC. First, he will help collect information.

"My role is to work with not only DoD, but the Department of Interior, Office of Personnel Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross," he said. "All the agency representatives are divided up into teams to monitor systems and collect information.

In addition, he said, he will keep DoD posted on problems that may affect military operations. "I fully intend to be an early warning resource back to DoD," he said.

"If I see events unfolding here such as cascading power outages overseas near our military installations, I'll be in a good position to relay that information back to the Decision Support Activity.

The support activity, part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence, is DoD's focal point for monitoring defense infrastructures during the Year 2000 rollover. It will track reports of potential DoD infrastructure problems and keep officials advised, and it will handle requests from the State Department and FEMA for assistance due to Y2K problems that may occur.

No major domestic problems are expected because of the Y2K bug, but Lovdahl said the government is taking no chances. If an emergency demands it, a catastrophic disaster response group can be formed to take advantage of the center's information monitoring ability. Federal Emergency Management Agency would lead and operate the group just as it would for natural disasters such as hurricanes and major winter storms.

While many people are still fretting and planning on how to best welcome in the new millennium, Lovdahl knows exactly where he will be and what he will be doing — working the night shift at the ICC. And if all goes as well as government officials hope, the ICC night shift may well be celebrating the new year with the rest of the nation.



photo by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson

Sergeant Christopher Dilport, H&HS SAR crew chief, grabs SSgt. James F. Sweeney, rescue swimmer, during training exercises Oct. 8.

SAR from Page 3

system will take variables such as wind blowing on objects over the ocean, wind driven currents or the size of the object, and create a printout with the entry point of the victim and visual projection of victim's drift pattern, said Galsser.

The Navy gave the program to Iwakuni SAR after pilots received a one-week class on the use of the system.

If a person, ship or aircraft is lost at sea, the new program allows a search pattern to be developed based on the many factors that effect something in the water.

The past method of predicting where a victim would be was all guesswork, according to Glasser. Today the process of tracking the victim is much more scientific. The program eliminates a search in areas where the victim would not be.

"All that remains to be done is for SAR to get the navigational chart disks that will upgrade our system," said Galsser, "Once we get that it will be a great asset for planning."

If it's used properly the program will save time, fuel and lives, according to Glasser.

TRICARE from Page 4

included in the report, Williams said.

The report comments on differences apparent between 1994 and 1997 on a number of issues regarding health cost, quality and access. "This is an ongoing effort to try to explain what has happened under TRICARE relative to what was going on in 1994 and where we think the old CHAMPUS would have gotten us," Williams said.

The CNA/IDA report looked at out-of-pocket costs to beneficiaries compared to what military health care cost them under CHAMPUS. They found that those enrolled in TRICARE Prime generally paid fewer additional annual costs in 1998 than they had from 1994 to 1997, while those not enrolled but using TRICARE for their health care paid more out-of-pocket expenses.

Retiree costs went up, but Williams said that's mostly due to enrollment fees.

Although the surveys provide TRICARE with useful information, making changes to the military health care system isn't easy, Williams said. The challenge, he said, is to provide medical commanders the most current information available that they can then use to fine-tune the health care services they provide.

"They are interested in getting feedback more than on an annual basis," he said. "That indicates there is a need for more current information."

Williams said his office is going to give the commanders what they need, by performing future customer surveys quarterly instead of annually. TRICARE will still look at customer satisfaction over the past 12 months, but instead of surveying

the entire sample once a year, it will break the sampling down into four quarterly segments, he said. "It's going to be a rolling snapshot of how they're doing."

To affect improvements across the system, national performance measures will be incorporated in future managed care support contracts, Williams said. Contractors may be paid incentives if they exceed national figures for meeting beneficiary needs in getting the care they need, getting that care when they need it, while receiving good customer service, including claims processing.

"Efficient, effective access is such an important issue," Williams said. "We recognize that it's not your personal physician; it's not the care you get; it's getting in the door. Our contractors may be an important source of support in tackling this issue."

SENIOR from Page 4

for the seniors. Most of the songs that were sung were Christmas songs. Some of the seniors requested specific songs and tried to sing along.

"The folks there will know that a group of young Americans cared enough to spend a few hours giving them something that they didn't have to," Alkula said.

For the Marines that come from extended families that are far away it allows them to have these people be their families, even if it's just for a day, according to Alkula.

"It helps them to see in these people what they hope people back home are doing for our grandparents, and what we would do for our grandparents at Christmas time if we were there," said Alkula.

When the day came to an end, everyone had a present

and clutched two or three candy canes which caused a chuckle because they look like walking canes. Small handmade tokens of appreciation were given to some volunteers from the senior citizens.

"You can see the same joy and happiness in their faces as you would in the faces of children," said Cmdr.

Anthony Trapani, MAG-12 command chaplain. "I think it's the best Christmas I've had in a long time."

The members of the MAG-12 chaplains office organized the trip and used past experience to make this year more successful than ever.

"No one is expecting to get an award out of this," said Alkula.

"That makes it genuine."

Anyone interested in volunteering to help on an upcoming trip can contact the MAG-12 chaplain's office at 253-3971.



photo by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson

A resident of Seifuen Senior Home accepts a present from Santa during a group visit to the home Dec. 19.

Ring in the year Japanese style

by GySgt. Mark Zeid
USMC Reserve

While most Americans are recovering from parties or watching football games on New Year's Day, the Japanese are celebrating the holiday with traditions of food and family. New Year's, or "Shogatsu," is one of Japan's most important holidays. The Japanese see it not only as the start of a new year, but also a fresh start on life.

Since this is a family holiday, trains, planes and highways are packed as people migrate back to their hometowns.

Holiday preparations begin at the end of December with a year-end cleanup as people get rid of old, unnecessary belongings.

After cleaning, families place a "shimekazari" decoration on the front door to drive out evil spirits. Many companies and some households also set out "kadoomatsu," arrangements of pine, bamboo and plum branches, at their gates and doorways. The Japanese believe Shinto gods live in the "kadoomatsu" during the New Year holiday and bring good fortune.

Another popular decoration is the "kagamimochi," a tangerine on top of round rice cakes, which is set in the

alcove in each household as a gift for the Shinto gods. Think of this as the Japanese form of setting out cookies and milk for Santa Claus.

In addition, making rice cakes, which symbolize happiness, is also a traditional event for the new year. Some families get together and make the cakes the old-fashion way, with a stone mortar and a large wooden hammer. Other families buy ready-made rice cakes at the store.

Other traditional dishes include "toshikoshi soba," year-passing buckwheat noodles, eaten on New Year's Eve and "zoni," a sweet bean soup made with rice cakes and eaten as the first meal of the new year.

Unlike the United States, where everyone goes out to parties, the Japanese celebrate New Year's Eve at home watching TV. Japan's major broadcasting station, Nippon Hoso Kyokai, holds the "Kohaku Uta Gassen," a red and white song contest featuring popular singers. It is extremely popular and has been broadcasted annually since 1951.

At midnight, local temples ring their bells 108 times to get rid of the 108 evil thoughts the Buddhists believe each person has.

Many shrines have bonfires where people can throw away last year's lucky arrows and blessings. By burning them, the Japanese believe they get rid of last year's bad luck.

Then they buy new lucky arrows for the new year.

On New Year's Day, the Japanese go to shrines to pray for good luck and good health. As a result, the shrines are packed with people waiting for hours to get to the altar to pray. Some people climb mountains to witness the first sunrise of the new year and to pray.

New Year's is not complete without greeting cards called "nengajo," which are delivered to every household New Year's Day. These postcards are as important to the Japanese as Christmas cards are to Americans.

Children also receive gifts of money called "otoshidama" and play games such as "karuta," a traditional Japanese card game; "hanetsuki," a kind of badminton with wooden paddles; and "takoage," kite flying.

Special meals called "osechi" are usually prepared. Mothers and daughters traditionally prepare these meals, but it is becoming more and more popular to buy them from department stores.

In recent years, many of Japan's younger generation have been going overseas for special New Year's travel packages instead of joining the traditional family celebrations at home.

Still, whether modern or traditional, New Year's in Japan is a time of fun and vacation for everyone. It is also one of Japan's most unique cultural celebrations.

Corps

MOUT from Page 5

"Bang bang," Marines providing security yell. They run to a window well above the ground and make their entrance. Two Marines ready themselves against the wall to provide a human ladder for the next. A grenade is thrown through the window and up he goes.

Marines continue to enter the room as "Support!" is yelled across to the road. Another team runs to the window so others can join their team.

"Bump me when we're up," the squad leader yells as he waits at the corner of the wall, then quickly leads his squad to the next room.

"Room clear, support!"

Support Marines quickly enter to hold the position while the team continues to clear rooms.

Finally, through all the rushing and yelling, "Clear! All Clear!" echoes through the building. Everyone filters from their positions and Mendel quickly spews lessons to the platoon.

"If your lead man enters through a window or door, I don't care if the whole battalion is coming through, everyone goes through that same entry," Mendel said. "If you try to go somewhere different, the security inside is going to cap you when you step in front of the window or door they're guarding."

Those providing external security were reminded that this building was just a foothold; they have to watch everything, not just one building.

There is no one way to do things, he said. The situation dictates.

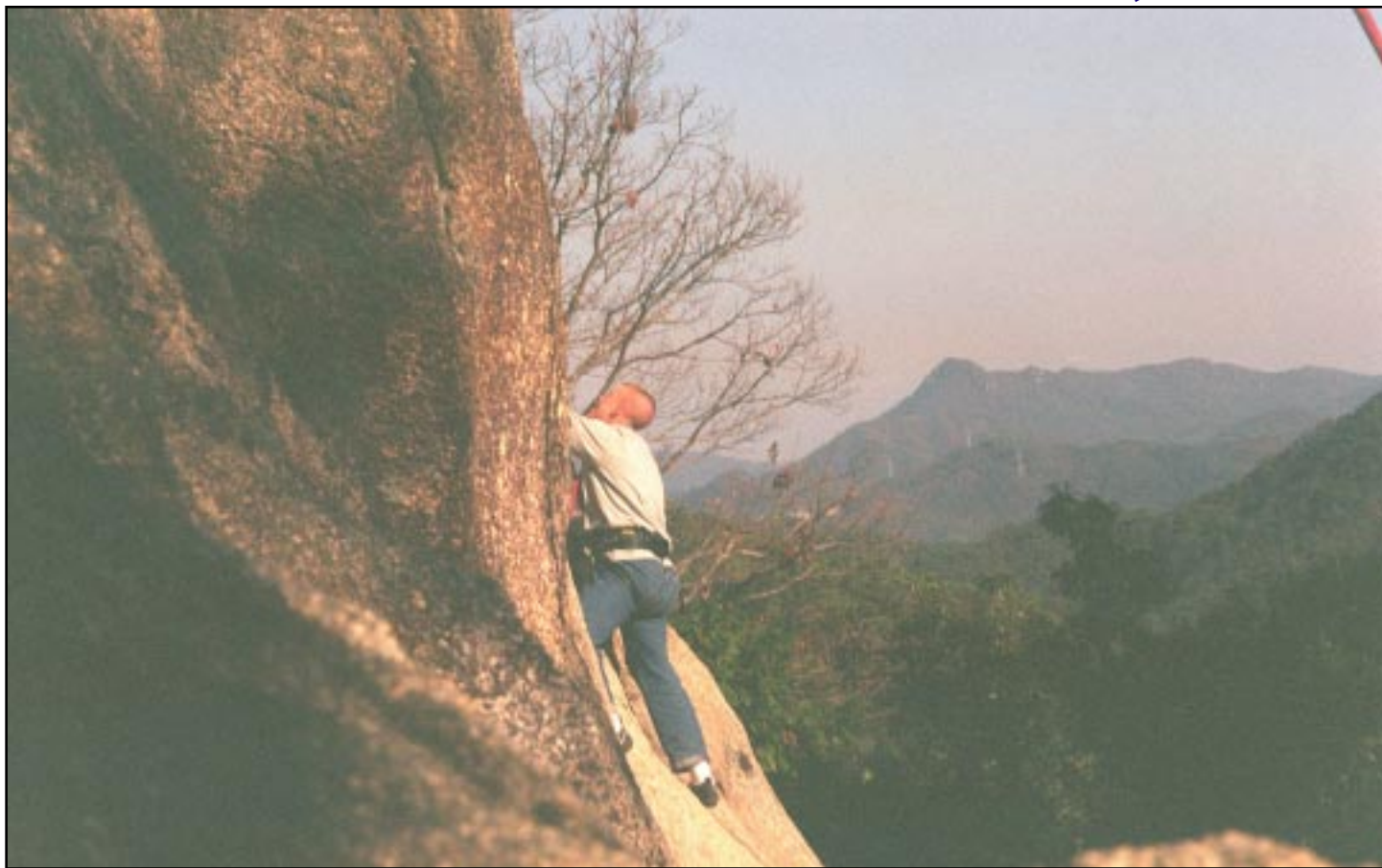


photo by Leah Dillingham

A recent participant in the STAR program, makes his way along the steep rocks at Three Peaks Dec. 17.

STAR Program keeps on climbing

by Cpl. Michael Wiener
Torii Teller Staff

The Swim Training and Recreation Program still shines after six months of introducing Marines and Sailors to what is available to them during their off-duty time.

Since it began in June, the week-long program continues to meet its goals of showing new arrivals what the station, MCCS and Iwakuni have to offer.

"The program was developed with three main objectives: raise morale, lower the number of injuries and accidents aboard the air station, and ensure Marines and Sailors know from first-hand experience what programs are at their disposal at MCAS Iwakuni," said Leah Dillingham, Health Promotions director.

The novelty of the program has been embraced by the major units aboard the station, providing a backbone for success.

"From the time the program was implemented, it has been widely supported by the commands," Dillingham said. "Marines and Sailors who have had the opportunity to attend have not only expanded their recreational horizons, but developed mental toughness required to face some challenges they didn't expect, such as rock

climbing and river rafting."

One of the indoctrinations Marines and Sailors experience is at Torii Pines Golf Course. John Robins, course director, runs through basics of signing in, swing and etiquette. Then the teams play a few holes.

"I not only see the people who went through the STAR Program coming back, but they bring their buddies as well," Robins said.

Participants in STAR also get to sample judo, the Wood Hobby Shop, rock climbing and other activities. Private First Class Kyle McDonald, weather observer, went through STAR's first week.

"You hear a lot of things in JRC, but you don't know how to get involved. If it wasn't for the program, I probably wouldn't be doing as much as I am," McDonald said.

"I hear a lot of enthusiasm about how great it is to be able to find out things they wouldn't otherwise be aware of," Robins said.

With the past six month's of success, the future of the program is as bright as its name.

"Most of the commands are sending the maximum number of participants that we can support," Dillingham said. "I see the STAR Program as something Marines and Sailors expect from MCAS Iwakuni."

Devils fire up Ballers

by Cpl. Michael Wiener
Torii Teller Staff

The Red Devils fell behind early but rebounded to send the Boss Ballers to a 53-49 loss Monday night in intramural basketball at the Main Gym.

Red Devils' Shawn Jones led his team with 21 points, going 4 for 4 at the line in the last minute of play to seal the victory.

"Most of my points were easy lay-ups in the transition," Jones said. "At the end of the game, I picked up the easy points from the line."

"Jones can shoot, and he can score," said Devils' coach

Toby Hammett. "But what he really does is get other players involved. He takes charge like that, and that's what was key to the game."

After falling behind 12-5 eight minutes into the game, the Devils turned up the heat. In the last five minutes of the half, the squad tallied 13 points, including six from the line, to take a 27-21 half-time lead. During that stretch, the Ballers were only able to put 5 points on the scoreboard.

"We were out for three weeks, and hadn't played much ball," said Boss Ballers' Steve "Big Tyme" Owsley. "We tried to make up for the off time by being aggressive, and that put us in foul trouble quick."

The Red Devils never looked back after taking the lead, and at one



photo by Cpl. Michael Wiener

Devils' Deshawn Campbell is surrounded by Boss Ballers defenders as he looks to the hoop for a quick score in the Red Devils 53-49 win.

point led the Ballers by nine points.

"We really had a tough man-to-man defense that got out after them," Hammett said. "It was good beating those guys. They always play tough ball."

In other Monday night action, the Samurai's Mike Adams led his team with 20 points in a 51-39 thrashing of the 171 Young Leaders. The No Snitchers edged out the 670 Brawlers in a low-scoring 41-36 victory.

Tuesday night saw the Boss Ballers recovering from Monday night's loss, slaying the Dragons 50-46.

The Red Devils continued to beat up on the league, taking down the Brawlers 45-21. Despite 22 points from Adams, the Samurai fell to WWJD 58-44.

Sports Briefs

Sledding Trip

Outdoor Recreation offers a sledding trip to Mominoki Park Sunday. Status of Forces Agreement personnel may sign up at ITT in Crossroads Mall. For details call 253-3822. There is a fee.

Ski Information

Registration is open for Outdoor Recreation ski trips. Status of Forces Agreement personnel may check out skis and snowboards from the Outdoor Recreation Center in the Main Gym. Rentals are free for the first two days. For details call 253-3822.

Christmas Bowling

The Southside Bowling Center offers bowling for 50 cents a game Christmas Day, 1-11 p.m.

New Year's Eve

Tickets are on sale through Thursday for the Southside Bowling Center's New Year's Eve party, which is open to bowlers and guests age 18 and older. For more information call 253-4657.

SCUBA

Classes scheduled January include Medic First Aid, Jan. 11-12, Emergency Oxygen Provider, Jan. 13, and PADI Divemaster, beginning Jan. 18 and continuing Tuesdays and Thursdays for eight weeks. For more information call 253-6058.

Deadline Extended

The deadline for 2000 Okinawa Marathon, set for Feb. 20 has been extended into Jan. The marathon route covers 10K through 12 cities in the central Okinawa area. Call MCCS Health Promotions at 253-5654 for details.

Friday

9:00 AFN Holiday Special
Christmas Eve on Sesame Street
10:00 Blues Clues
10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
11:00 Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:00 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
3:30 Nightmare Ned
4:00 Sister, Sister
4:30 The Sabrina Teenage Witch
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Headline News
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 AFN Special
A Christmas Carol (TV-G)
10:00 Headline News
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Saturday

0:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
High Anxiety (TV-PG)
2:45 Movies 'til Dawn
Madame Sousatzka (TV-PG)
5:00 Today Show
7:00 Xmas at Eureka's Castle
7:30 Mickey's Christmas Carol
8:00 The Walt Disney World
Very Merry Xmas Parade
10:00 Handel's Messiah
11:00 Crystal Cathedral Christmas Eve
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Navy/Marine Corps News
1:00 Sports (TD)
4:00 WWF Superstars (TV-14)
5:00 Entertainers
6:00 Headline News
6:30 ESPN News
7:00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (TV-PG)
8:00 Melrose Place (TV-14)
9:00 20/20 Friday
10:00 Headline News
10:30 ESPN News
11:00 Saturday Night Live (TV-14)

Sunday

12:30 Motown Live (TV-G)
1:30 Soul Train
2:30 Storytellers (TV-PG)
3:30 Friday Night
4:30 Headline News
5:00 The NFL Today (CBS)
6:00 NFL (CBS)
9:00 Headline News
9:30 Army Newswatch
10:00 NFL 2Night (ESPN)
10:30 Jeep Oahu Bowl (ESPN)
2:00 Family Movie
Flubber (TV-PG)
4:00 Hercules: The Legendary

Journeys (TV-PG)
5:00 Computer Chronicles
5:30 Wall Street Journal Report
6:00 Headline News
6:30 ESPN News
7:00 America's Funniest Home Videos (TV-G)
8:00 Primetime Movie
Searching for Bobby Fischer (TV-PG)
10:30 Headline News
11:00 Pensacola: Wings of Gold (TV-PG)

Monday

12:30 WWF Superstars (TV-14)
1:30 America's Black Forum
2:00 NFL (CBS)
6:00 NFL (CBS)
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Zoboomafoo (TV-Y)
10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
Headline News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Disney's Pepper Ann
3:30 Jumanji (TV-Y7)
4:00 Cousin Skeeter (TV-Y)
4:30 All That (TV-Y)
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 60 Minutes
8:00 The Drew Carey Show (TV-PG)
8:30 The King of Queens (TV-PG)
9:00 The Practice (TV-14)
10:00 Pacific Report
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 AFN Special
SNL: Best Game Show Parodies

Tuesday

0:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
Visitors of the Night (TV-PG)
3:00 Movies 'til Dawn
Paper Mask (TV-14)
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:00 Headline News
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Teletubbies (TV-Y)
10:30 Co-Ed Training
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Space Goofs (TV-G)
3:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids
4:00 Teen Files

5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 Seventh Heaven (TV-G)
8:00 NFL Monday Night Football
11:30 Pacific Report

Wednesday

12:05 Tonight Show w/Leno
1:05 Late Show w/Letterman
2:05 Entertainers
3:00 Movie 'til Dawn
Escape from Alcatraz (TV-PG)
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Blues Clues
10:30 Bodyspace
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Taz-Mania
3:30 The Secret Files of the Spysdogs (TV-Y7)
4:00 Power Rangers in Space (TV-Y7)
4:30 Dear America (TV-G)
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 AFN Holiday Special
Story of Kwanzaa
Party of Five (TV-14)
9:00 Buffy Vampire Slayer (TV-14)
10:00 Pacific Report
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

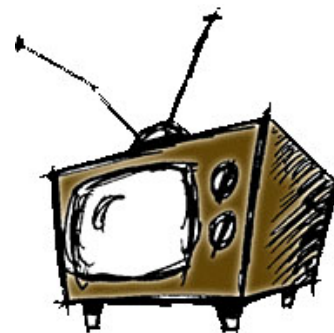
Thursday

0:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
The Last Sunset (TV-PG)
3:00 Movies 'til Dawn
Blind Spot (TV-PG)
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:00 Headline News
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Teletubbies (TV-Y)
10:30 Co-Ed Training
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Animaniacs
3:30 Batman (TV-Y7)

4:00 Pokemon (TV-G)
4:30 Boy Meets World (TV-PG)
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 Dharma and Greg (TV-14)
7:30 Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place (TV-PG)
8:00 Just Shoot Me (TV-14)
8:35 Will and Grace (TV-14)
9:00 NYPD Blue (TV-14)
10:00 Pacific Report
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Friday

12:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
The Harder They Fall (TV-PG)
3:05 Movies 'til Dawn
The Philadelphia Story (TV-PG)
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:00 Headline News
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Blues Clues
10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
11:00 Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
3:30 Nightmare Ned
4:00 Sister, Sister
4:30 The Sabrina Teenage Witch
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Headline News
7:50 ABC 2000
Millennium Special



Find additional TV schedules and sports teams names at www.iwakuni.usmc.mil.

Movies**Sakura Theater****Toy Story 2 (G)**

Rated G for family
Dec. 24, 3 p.m.; Dec. 26, 3 p.m.; Dec. 28, 7 p.m.

"Toy Story 2" is the exciting sequel to the landmark 1995 computer animated blockbuster from Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios. This time around, the fun and adventure continue when Andy goes off to summer camp and the toys are left to their own devices. Things shift into high gear when an obsessive toy collector kidnaps Woody — who hasn't the slightest clue that he's a valued collectible.

Best Man (R)

Rated R for language and sexuality
Dec. 26, 7 p.m.; Dec. 29, 7 p.m.

"The Best Man" reveals the more intimate side of life for a group of successful college friends who are reunited at the wedding of one of their buddies. With vows about to be exchanged, the groom's best man Harper, a commitment-phobic writer, worries that his friend will find out that he once had an affair with his

soon-to-be wife. Harper has good reason to be nervous — he's just written about the affair in a steamy new novel just about to hit the stands — and one of the bridesmaids, an ambitious TV reporter, has obtained an advance copy.

Three to Tango (PG-13)

Rated PG-13 for sex-related situations and language
Dec. 27, 7 p.m.

Rich businessman Dylan McDermott mistakenly believes his friend, played by Matthew Perry, is gay. While out of town, Dylan asks him to keep tabs on his mistress, Neve Campbell. Although she also believes Perry is gay, matters are complicated when he starts to fall in love with her.

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. Any questions or comments can be directed to **MCSS** at 253-4003.

Iwakuni's Theaters**Kokusai:**

Dec. 25 - end of January
"End of Days" - 12:10 p.m., 2:25 p.m.,
4:40 p.m., 6:55 p.m.,
(Sat. only) 9:10 p.m., 11:25 p.m.

New Central:
New Central I:

Dec. 24 - beginning of January
"Wild Wild West"

New Central II:

Dec. 24 - beginning of January
"Fight Club"

New Central III:

Dec. 25 - beginning of January
"Sixth Sense"

Time schedule not available
at time of print.

Local



Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous open meetings are held Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays and Sundays, 7 p.m. Closed meetings are held each Monday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday at 7 p.m. Their primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. All meetings are held in Bldg. 497, second floor. For more information call 43-4814.

Medical Clinic Health Promotions Tobacco Cessation Courses

Tobacco Cessation classes will be held Jan. 19, 21, 26, 28, Feb. 16, 18, 23, 25, March 22, 24, 29 and 31. Courses are held in the clinic conference room, 10-11 a.m. Participants must attend all four sessions. For more information call 253-3266.

Controlling Cholesterol Course

A "Controlling Cholesterol Course" will be offered Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 30, 10-11 a.m. in the Branch Medical Clinic conference room. This class will help participants understand what cholesterol is, how to reduce it and the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise. For more information call 253-3266.

E.D.I.S.

Education and Developmental Intervention Services, a

division of the Branch Medical Clinic, offers an Early Intervention program for children up to 36 months.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's speech, social, cognitive or motor development call 253-4562 to set up a free screening or evaluation. Information is also available on such topics as child development, parenting issues and behavior management.

Childbirth Education Program Five-week Series

A five-week-series class is offered to first time expectant parents during the third trimester who are interested in learning the basics about child birth. The class meets once a week for five weeks from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information call Cmdr. Lisa Craft at 253-2714.

Refresher Class

The Refresher Class is offered to mothers who want to "freshen up" on the skills covered in the five-week series. This class, offered once a month, covers such issues as delivery at a Japanese facility, labor and delivery and breathing techniques. For more information call 253-2714.

Baby's First Gift

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society will present a Baby's First Gift to you in "Baby's First Seabag." The Layette package contains newborn clothing, baby book, crocheted sweater set and blanket and a diaper bag. This baby gift is available free to all Navy and Marine Corps families. You must either attend a Budget for Baby Workshop or schedule an appointment with a Navy Relief caseworker to discuss budgeting for baby.

Call 253-5311 for an appointment. Layettes are given out six months before due date and up to one month after birth. You may stop by Bldg. 360, Rm. 35 for preview.

Parents Support Program

The Parent Advocacy Program is looking for parents of children with disabilities to go to Okinawa for training to better support families here at MCAS Iwakuni. Air fare, hotel and meal accommodations provided. Fifty training manuals and business cards provided at the end of the training. Two years preferred remaining on the air station. Call Lt. Cmdr. Doran at 253-4562 to apply.

Closure of Commissary

The Commissary's hours of operation will be changing to following schedule due to the holiday season.

today	-	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday	-	closed in observance of Christmas
Dec. 31	-	10 a.m.-6 p.m. (normal hours)
Jan. 1	-	closed in observance of New Year

For more information call 253-4512.

Rent-A-Santa

The Enlisted Spouses' Club is sponsoring a Rent-A-Santa event for the holiday season. Call 253-4721 to

Chapel's Weekly Services

<u>Saturday</u>	
5:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass (Chapel Annex)
<u>Sunday</u>	
8:15 a.m.	Liturgical Worship Service (Chapel Annex)
9 a.m.	Catholic Mass (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
10 a.m.	Church of Christ Lay Leader Service (Chapel Annex, Rm. 103)
10:15 a.m.	C.C.D. (Chapel Annex)
	Gospel Sunday School (M.C. Perry Elementary School, Rm. 423B)
10:30 a.m.	Protestant Divine Worship Service (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
12 p.m.	Gospel Divine Worship Service (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
2 p.m.	Latter Day Saint (Chapel Annex)
<u>Tuesday</u>	
6:45 a.m.	Catholic Mass (Chapel Annex)
<u>Wednesday</u>	
8 a.m.	Premarital Seminar (Chapel Annex)
<u>Thursday</u>	
11:45 a.m.	Catholic Mass (Chapel Annex)

Call 253-5218 for more information.
For information on Jewish Services call Mark Zeid at 082-231-4008 after 6 p.m. or call the Station Chapel.

request a date and they will send you Santa Claus, complete with outfit. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. The ESC is looking for volunteers to wear the Santa suits. Interested people should stop by the Consignment Sales Shop or call Arlette Walls at 253-4721.

Christmas Post Office Hours

The Station Post Office will only be open special hours due to Christmas season. **Today** - Finance closed; Parcel Pick-up window, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Operation Santa Pick-up, 10 p.m.-midnight. **Saturday-Monday** - Closed

Marine Corps Community Services MCCS Holiday Events

Marine Corps Community Services will hold the following holiday events through the end of the year:

Free Christmas Day buffet at the Marine Lounge, Saturday, noon-10 p.m. Buffet is open to single and unaccompanied MCCS patrons and their guests 18 and older.

Free Christmas Day party at the Hornet's Nest, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Christmas Day buffet at Club Iwakuni, noon-5 p.m., in the ballroom and open to all ranks.

Club Iwakuni New Year's Eve parties, with a buffet dinner for \$9.95 which includes a Year 2000 Champagne glass. Entertainment scheduled in the Officers' Club: "Serious Guise" 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; in the Staff NCO Club: "Camille," in the Landing Zone: "Allure." (Tickets will go on sale for \$5 beginning today and include hors d'oeuvres from 7-9 p.m. and party favors.)

New Year's Day Millennium Concert, will be held Jan. 1 in Club Iwakuni, features "Serious Guise," "Camille" and "Allure." The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., with "Allure" taking the stage around 10:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to all ranks.

Playgroup

Parents and their children up to 6 years old are invited to enjoy playtime, songs, snacks and crafts Tuesdays, 9:30-11 a.m. in Bldg. 589, community room. Everything is free. For details call Mari at 253-4526.

Ultimate Job Search

Ultimate Job Search, job search process, is an up-to-date four-video package including "Starting the Job Search," "Effective Job Search Techniques," "Writing Resumes and Cover Letter" and "Interviewing with Confidence." For more information call 253-6439.

Basic Resume Workshop

Basic Resume Workshop will be held Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m. This customized workshop focuses on identifying skills, training and experiences that translate to marketable job qualifications. For details call 253-6439.

Marine Corps Family Team Building

The next Marine Corps Family Team Building pre-marital seminar will be held Jan. 26. People who are soon to be married are encouraged to attend. For more



Roman Catholic:

Dec. 24:

5:30 p.m. - Christmas Mass
with Children's Pageant
midnight - Christmas Midnight Mass

Dec. 25: 9 a.m. - Christmas Mass

Dec. 26: 9 a.m. - Sunday Mass

Jan. 1: 5:30 p.m. - Mass

Jan. 2: 9 a.m. - Mass

(All Masses in M.C. Parry Elementary School Gym.)

Protestant:

Dec. 24: 7:30 p.m. - Candle Light Service
and Children's Christmas Program
(M.C. Parry Elementary School Gym)

Liturgical:

Dec. 25: 9 a.m.

(Chapel Annex multi-purpose room)

information call Chaplain Murphy at 253-5218.

Local and Federal Employment Workshop

Local and Federal Employment Workshop will be held Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 201. The workshop will explain local job market and the application processes. Instruction is given on completing the SF171, OF612, Federal Resume and KSA form. For details call 253-6439 or stop by Bldg. 411, Rm. 201.

Allure Autographs

Allure will sign autographs at Torii Tunes in the Exchange Thursday, 5:30-7 p.m.

Education



Test Schedule

Every Tuesday/Friday

- College Level Examination Program
- DANTES Subject Standardized Test
- Dec. 27 - Electronics Data Processing Test
- Dec. 29 - Defense Language Aptitude Battery
- Defense Language Proficiency Test
- Dec. 30 - Armed Forces Classification Test

All tests will be held at 8 a.m. at the Education Services Office locating at Bldg. 210, Rm. 109. Call the Education Services Office at 253-3855 for confirmation of testing dates or more information.

Troy State University

Troy State University is starting Term III Jan. 3. Classes being offered are MAN 6678 human resources management and MAN 6624 labor law. Stop by Bldg. 411, Rm. 109 or call 253-6051 to register.